

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JULY 15, 2014

**Supporting the Los Angeles County Office of Education Early Head Start Grant Application**

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) proposes to expand its comprehensive birth-to-five continuum of services for 500 infants and toddlers, and plans to submit an Early Head Start grant application to the Office of Head Start administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Early Head Start program will train parents on how to engage early with their children and provide a foundation that prepares children for learning.

The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that parents read aloud to young children “beginning in infancy,” to encourage word learning, literacy and positive family relationships. LACOE’s Early Head Start program supports parents as their child’s primary teacher and provides them and their children with skills, knowledge, and the resources to succeed. Without access to these services, children from low-income families risk falling further behind in their efforts to succeed in school. Early Head Start

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MOTION

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research shows children demonstrate fewer behavior problems, are more likely to attend preschool, and parents are more involved and supportive of their children's learning.

LACOE's proposal includes enhancing and supporting the high-quality early learning setting through full-day, full-year comprehensive services to meet the needs of low-income working families and parents in school. For fiscal year 2014-2015, LACOE Head Start-State Preschool has funds for 10,945 Head Start slots and 940 Early Head Start slots, and this grant, if received, will increase the Early Head Start slots to 1,440. The services will target children and families enrolled in California's General Child Care program operating in East, Central, North, and South Los Angeles County.

For over 30 years, LACOE has demonstrated the administrative proficiencies, accomplished management and service delivery systems, and collaborations, to oversee the delivery of quality services within Los Angeles County. LACOE has the ability to offer families multiple "ladders out of poverty" through an economy-of-scale model that maximizes the use of federal funds and utilizes other state and local resources to support its delegate agencies to deliver exceptional early learning services. Examples of resources include California State Preschool and General Child Care funds that allow a blended model to offer a full day of subsidized services; mentor coaching for teacher to increase instructional supports; professional development to support teachers in obtaining bachelor degrees; and grant funds from Kellogg

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Foundation to support quality transition from preschool to kindergarten.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

Support the Los Angeles County Office of Education's grant application for Early Head Start program expansion funds by sending a letter of support to the Office of Head Start.

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